

Message Text

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SUBJECT: WASHINGTON STAR REPORTS US MARINES INVOLVED IN
INSURRECTION AGAINST FRANCOIS DUVALIER

1. THE WASHINGTON STAR NEWS OF MARCH 11, CARRIES A FRONT
PAGE FEATURE BY STATE DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENT JEREMIAH
O'LEARY ENTITLED "HOW THE MARINES HELPED ARM HAITIAN REBELS
AGAINST DUVALIER." THE STORY CLAIMS THAT MARINES OF THE US
NAVAL MISSION IN HAITI ASSISTED CLEMENT BARBOT IN HIS 1963
INSURRECTION AGAINST THE LATE PRESIDENT FRANCOIS DUVALIER
BY MAKING ARMS AVAILABLE TO THE REBELS.

2. O'LEARY SAYS HE KEPT THE STORY SECRET UNTIL NOW "BECAUSE
THE MARINES HAD MY PROMISE OF CONFIDENTIALITY IN RETURN FOR
AN OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW THE INSURGENT LEADERS OUTSIDE
PORT AU PRINCE" (INTERVIEW IS DESCRIBED IN BOOK "POPADOC"
PG 237). HE SAYS THE "MARINE EFFORTS...SEEMED TO BE COM-
PLETELY INDEPENDENT OF CIA OPERATIONS" AND THAT HE DOES NOT
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KNOW IF THE MARINES WERE WORKING UNDER ORDERS FROM DOD OR

DIA OR INDEPENDENTLY. ASSISTANCE, ACCORDING TO O'LEARY, CONSISTED OF "LEAVING THE ARMORY UNLOCKED AND PERMITTING BARBOT'S MEN TO HELP THEMSELVES TO M-1 RIFLES, .45 CALIBER PISTOLS, AND FRAGMENTATION GRENADES." THIS INVOLVED "SCORES OF RIFLES AND PISTOLS."

3. DESCRIBING THE SITUATION IN HAITI AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW AS EXPLOSIVE, O'LEARY DETAILED THE SECRET CONTACT WITH BARBOT WHICH WAS ARRANGED THROUGH THE MARINES. HE WAS PICKED UP BY A CAR OUTSIDE THE SANS SOUCI HOTEL AND, AFTER EXCHANGING THE TWO HALVES OF A BUBBLE-GUM BASEBALL CARD WITH THE CAR'S DRIVER, WAS TAKEN TO BARBOT'S HEADQUARTERS. BARBOT SHOWED HIM SOME "MARINE SUPPLIED WEAPONS" AND DETAILED PLANS FOR FURTHER INSURGENT ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR FOLLOWING NIGHT. THE NEXT NIGHT HE JOINED THE MARINES AT A HOUSE OVERLOOKING THE POINTS BARBOT WAS GOING TO STRIKE. ATTACK WAS NOT AS EFFECTIVE AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN, ACCORDING TO O'LEARY DUE TO THE FACT THAT BARBOT'S MEN HAD TRIED TO SET FIRE TO HASCO'S FUEL STORAGE TANKS WITH FRAGMENTATION GRENADES WHICH WERE UNSUITED TO THE JOB. CANE FIELDS DID GO UP IN FLAMES AS BARBOT HAD INDICATED HOWEVER. O'LEARY CLAIMS HE WAS TOLD TO LEAVE HAITI IMMEDIATELY BY THE MARINES AND WAS SMUGGLED OUT ABOARD A NAVY DC3 WHICH "HAD COME FROM GUANTANAMO BAY TO TAKE ME OUT OF HAITI." ONLY MARINE IDENTIFIED BY O'LEARY BY NAME IS A "GUNNY SERGEANT SHERIDAN."

4. NO QUESTIONS ON STORY WERE ASKED AT TODAY'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING. LINE WE PROPOSE TO TAKE IS THAT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE ALLEGED EVENTS O'LEARY DESCRIBES. MARINE CORPS PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE HAS BEEN ALERTED, IS RESEARCHING THE MATTER AND HAS AGREED TO CONSULT WITH DEPARTMENT BEFORE RELEASING ANY STATEMENTS CONCERNING MATTER. INGERSOLL

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